

# Worthy Reads - "Tech Billionaires Need to Stop Trying to Make the Science Fiction They Grew Up on Real"

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I am typically not one to say, "wow, that is a good article", but man... that is a good article.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20231224094228/https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tech-billionaires-need-to-stop-trying-to-make-the-science-fiction-they-grew-up-on-real/>

Science fiction (SF) influences everything in this day and age, from the design of everyday artifacts to how we—including the current crop of 50-something Silicon Valley billionaires—work. And that's a bad thing: it leaves us facing a future we were all warned about, courtesy of dystopian novels mistaken for instruction manuals.

Billionaires who grew up reading science-fiction classics published 30 to 50 years ago are affecting our life today in almost too many ways to list: [Elon Musk](#) wants to colonize Mars. Jeff Bezos prefers 1970s plans [for giant orbital habitats](#). Peter Thiel is funding research into artificial intelligence, [life extension](#) and "[seasteading](#)." Mark Zuckerberg has blown \$10 billion trying to create the Metaverse from [Neal Stephenson's novel Snow Crash](#). And Marc Andreessen of the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz has published a "techno-optimist manifesto" promoting a [bizarre accelerationist philosophy](#) that calls for an unregulated, solely capitalist future of pure technological chaos.



L4D2 - Reflections on the  
Last Stand



Deadlock Is Proof Valve  
Has Lost It



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